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POISON DART FROGS

Splash-backed Poison Frog

Adelphobates galactonotus

Adelphobates galactonotus is one of the large poison frogs and is known for its bright patch of colour across the back in orange, yellow, red or blue against black legs and flanks. It is diurnal, grows to about 4 cm and lives in the rainforest of Brazil south of the Amazon River. It is more reserved than the most common poison frogs, and breeding follows the seasons to a greater degree.

Family: Dendrobatidae Former name: *Dendrobates galactonotus* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**4 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Skin toxins in the wild	**Mild**
Skin toxins in captivity	**None** Captive-bred animals. Wild-caught animals can keep their toxins for a long time
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 45 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**21-25 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-21 °C**
Humidity	**70-100%**
Water	**No water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Small invertebrates (springtails, fruit flies)**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Tadpoles carried to water**
Egg-laying site	**On the ground**
Sexually mature	**8-12 months**
Eggs per clutch	**4-8**
Hatching	**14 days**
Larval period	**60-90 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Algae/plants and complete diet**
Parental care	**Guards the eggs and carries the tadpoles**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	A pair of *Adelphobates galactonotus* needs an enclosure of at least 60 × 45 × 45 cm (about 120 litres).
TEMPERATURE	*Adelphobates galactonotus* does well at about 21-25 °C during the day, and at night the temperature may fall to 18-21 °C. The species tolerates 18-27 °C but does best at around 21-24 °C.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity should be 70-100 %.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	*Adelphobates galactonotus* does not need a water dish or a waterfall when the enclosure is misted regularly and has a moist layer of leaf litter.
LIGHTING AND UVB	UVB is optional for *Adelphobates galactonotus*. If you choose to provide it, it should be weak (Ferguson zone 1) and combined with dense shade, and it does not replace supplements.
FEEDING	*Adelphobates galactonotus* eats small arthropods. Wingless fruit flies are the staple food: adults take both *Drosophila melanogaster* and suitably sized *D. hydei*, while newly metamorphosed juveniles need the smallest.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Adelphobates galactonotus* is diurnal and fairly calm. It is less forward than the boldest poison frogs and likes to hide, but established animals can be quite visible when there is plenty of cover.
NATIVE RANGE	Brazil.